

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Plastic shopping bags have supplanted paper bags for use in supermarkets, and most retail establishments, because of their versatility, decorativeness and cheapness. Generally, such bags, have a disadvantage in that they are formed with hanging triangularly shaped bottoms and are thus difficult to fill. It has been attempted to provide plastic bags having flat bottoms, for more conveniently receiving grocery items, boxes and the like. Such bags, however, cannot be made inexpensively. Another problem with conventional plastic bag bags lies in the fact that they are not self supporting and therefor therefore their opening or mouth is neither wide or distensible enough to make loading or filling of the bag easy.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In my prior patents, U.S. 3,988,970, 3,916,770 and 4,230,030, I have disclosed plastic bags and their manufacture in which flat bottoms have been formed. These serve to allow the bag to be neatly folded for stacking and shipping and also to be effective ~~an~~ advantage in filling the bag. The bags shown in these patents also have side gussets similarly designed to allow folding and stacking for shipping. The bags known from these patents, however, do not provide reinforced strong integrally and unitarily formed handles, by which the filled ba bag can be easily carried.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In accordance with the present invention, a cylinder 10 is formed on an endless sheet of plastic film, suitable for use as a commercial shopping bag. The sheet 10 was initially laid flat and cut to the desired longitudinal size, and in this flat condition, the bottom edge 12 is passed through a heating or shaping unit where several ribs and/or seal blocks 14 are formed in a uniform spaced arrangement in a relatively wide band 16 adjacent the edge 12. The ribs and and/or seal blocks 14 strengthen the film and serve to form a reinforced bottom, as will be described.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Lastly a folder or a mandrel is employed to form and flatten the bottom wall, about a horizontal line 40 approximately at the point 42, where the upper edge of the cut 32 intersects the gusset ribs. Because the angular cut edge of the gusset ribs and folds are sealed, the side walls 26 are pulled inwardly into the plane of the bottom, providing the sections 42 and 44 provide triangular sections defining laterally extending wing portions 44 at of the bottom wall, as seen in Figs. 5 and 6. Consequently, once the bag is opened the “foot” F of the flat bottom wall of the bag (Fig. 6) is extended by the wing portions 44 and the extended bottom wall is larger than the rectangular cross-sectional configuration of the tubular sleeve itself, resulting in a larger volume bag without substantial increase in sleeve diameter. It will also been seen that the ribs and and/or block seals 14 formed in the bottom edge of the tubular sleeve (Fig. 2) now create a strong reinforcement for the extended bottom wall and extensions, creating a firm, well defined rectangular foot

extended bottom wall. The seals along cuts 32, like form reinforcing ribs strengthening strengthen the triangular extension wing portion portions 44.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Similarly as seen from Fig. 6, the mouth 48 or top edge of the bag is widened considerably once the bag is opened so as to allow more ready access into the bag itself. This is accomplished by the fact that when the bag is opened and the bottom wall flattened, the gusseted end walls 30 balloon outwardly and distended distend both transversely and laterally. Thus compared to a single gusseted bag, the present bag provides a substantially greater volume within the bag without increasing the tubular diameter of the flat dimensions of the bag. By reinforcing the longitudinal corners 28 with heat formed bead or seal, added provide vertical strength in is provided allowing the bag to remain open without difficulty.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The present bag is provided with self or integral handles 50 as seen in Figs. 6 and 7 and 8. In the flat condition, the gusseted tubular sleeve 22 or the finished bag is scored or cut along the transverse lines 52 from each end wall inwardly toward each other[,] for a selected distance, terminating[,] spaced from the central longitudinal axis of the frontal faces. This produces a pair of spaced handles 50 integrally and unitarily formed at 54 with the frontal faces 24 of the bag. To insure that the handles 52 do not tear away from the frontal faces reinforcing ribs 56, reinforced edges or the like may be

made at the corners 58 or along the longitudinal junction 54 of the handle and the bag, by heat sealing the edges, adding additional material or other conventional means. The scoring or cutting as well as the reinforcement of the handles can be effected affected simultaneously with the formation of the flat bottom bag.--